

## **Harper Hospital** (*Demolished*)

3990 John R.

Other name: Harper Grace Hospital

Local		
State	✓	3/3/71
State Marker	✓	10/23/80
National	✓	9/3/76



**New Harper Hospital**

Photo courtesy of harperhospital.org



### **Historic overview:**

Harper Hospital, is the oldest private hospital in Michigan, being in existence over 130 years. In 1859 Walter Harper contributed 1,000 acres of property for the construction of a hospital that would serve the City of Detroit. Later that year, Ann Martin deeded 23 acres of land for the same use. When these two donors and friends got older, a cottage was built for them on what used to be Martin's land. After Harper's death in 1867, Ms. Martin stayed at Harper Hospital until she passed in 1875.

Harper Hospital was incorporated in 1863. The next year, the lots on Woodward were leased to the U.S. government for hospital purposes providing they erected one large wooden building and ten cottages. In 1865 the government turned everything over to the trustees, and the hospital opened as a local institution the following year. The first patients were twenty-four soldiers from the Soldiers' Home.

The old wooden military buildings outlived their usefulness by 1884, and a new hospital was built that was structurally and architecturally modern and scientifically up to date. It was designed by Elijah E. Myers, was four acres, and cost \$115,000. Myers' specialty was in public architecture, and he designed capitol buildings in several states as well as the Detroit City Hospital for Contagious Diseases.

Harper Hospital has remained an important institution, and is an aggregation of buildings spreading over eight and one-half acres. It has a tradition of leadership in a wide range of community affairs.